

MARYLAND

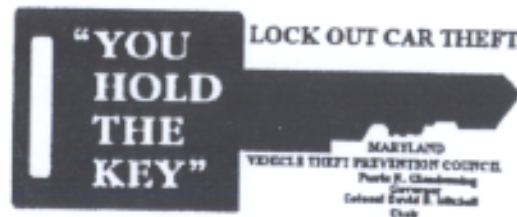


"Watch Your Car" PROGRAM

Administered by:

**Department of State Police
Vehicle Theft Prevention Council**

1125 National Highway
La Vale, Maryland 21502



For additional program information call:
(301) 729-5274

or
1-800-96 THEFT

"WATCH YOUR CAR"

MAKE YOUR CAR TOUGH TO STEAL

A vehicle is stolen every 20 seconds in the United States. **Auto theft is big business!** If auto theft were legalized and incorporated, it would rank 56th among the Fortune 500 companies.

Your vehicle is one of the largest investments you make. New vehicles are not the only target for car thieves. Older model vehicles are also very desirable. Thieves look for vehicles that can be resold quickly or stripped for parts. In most cases, a vehicle's parts are worth two to three times the value of the vehicle.

No vehicle or anti-theft device is 100% theft-proof, and discouraging thieves is not an easy task. A thief's greatest enemy is time. The more difficult your car is to steal, the longer it takes to be stolen. The more time a thief has to spend stealing your car, the greater the chance of detection. By making your car a tougher target, the thief will probably move on to a vehicle that is easier to steal.

"WATCH YOUR CAR" is a national vehicle theft prevention program funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, United States Department of Justice. It is a voluntary vehicle registration designed to deter auto theft and assist in the apprehension of auto thieves. Vehicle owners sign an agreement stating their vehicle is not normally used between the hours of 1:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. If a police officer observes the vehicle being driven anywhere in the United States during these hours, they may stop the vehicle and verify it is being operated by the vehicle owner, or a person designated by the owner.

The registration process consists of the completion of a registration/waiver form and taking it to your local participating police department or Maryland State Police Barrack. A police officer will then affix "WATCH YOUR CAR" decals in the proper place on the vehicle's windshield and rear window. The decals serve to notify police officers across the nation that the vehicle is registered with the "WATCH YOUR CAR" program. Information from the registration form will be entered into a centralized database accessible by law enforcement officers on a 24 hour basis.

PROGRAM GOAL

Maryland's Vehicle Theft Prevention Council administers this statewide vehicle registration program, in accordance with the National "WATCH YOUR CAR" program guidelines.

The goal of the "WATCH YOUR CAR" program is to help reduce the incidence of vehicle theft in Maryland by deterrence and by arrest of those automobile thieves apprehended because of the efforts of the "WATCH YOUR CAR" program.

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Vehicle owners wishing to participate in the program must present their vehicle and the following documents to register their vehicle:

**Photo identification (driver's license, ID card, etc.); and
Maryland current vehicle registration or copy of vehicle title.**

The vehicle owner verifies the completed information and signs the registration/waiver form. The registering police agency/officer must then physically inspect the vehicle to verify the accuracy of the information on the registration/waiver form.

DECALS

Upon registration the decals will be properly placed on the vehicle, according to the "WATCH YOUR CAR" program guidelines, by the police officer or volunteer conducting the registration on that vehicle. The round "WATCH YOUR CAR" logo decal indicates to an officer, approaching from the rear, that the vehicle is registered in the program. The round decal will be placed on the outside of the back glass within the lower 7 inch square on the driver's side.

The small rectangular windshield decal indicates that a police officer has authority to stop the vehicle between the program hours of 1:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. This decal will be placed on the outside of the windshield, on the driver's side, within the lower 7 inch square so as not to obstruct the view of the vehicle's serial number on the dash.



Watch Your Car

MARYLAND "WATCH YOUR CAR" PROGRAM

1125 National Highway, La Vale, Maryland 21502

REGISTRATION/WAIVER FORM



NAME:				
Last		First		Middle
ADDRESS:				
Street				
City		State	Zip Code	Telephone Number
VEHICLE:				
Tag Number	Make	Model	Color	
Vehicle Identification Number:			Additional Authorized Driver(s)	

**BY REGISTERING THE ABOVE VEHICLE IN THE MARYLAND
"WATCH YOUR CAR" PROGRAM
I VOLUNTARILY AGREE TO THE FOLLOWING:**

The above vehicle is not normally operated between the hours of 1:00 AM and 5:00 AM.

If the Police should observe a person operating the vehicle during the above hours (1:00 AM - 5:00 AM) they will reasonably suspect that the person operating the vehicle is doing so without my permission. Under these conditions, I want the Police to make an Investigation Stop of the vehicle to check for ownership.

I also realize that persons operating my vehicle during the stated hours with my permission are subject to being stopped by the Police for investigation. It is my responsibility to advise these individuals prior to giving them my vehicle that police may stop the vehicle. In these instances, police action may include the necessary precautions taken to protect officers when approaching a potentially stolen vehicle with occupants.

I understand that I must remove both decals if I withdraw from the program. I will also notify the Vehicle Theft Prevention Council, in writing, of such withdrawal or of any changes in my address or telephone number while still in the program.

I further consent and agree to indemnify and hold harmless any local, county, state or federal duly sworn law enforcement officer or agency against any and all claims arising from my participation in this program.

I hereby consent and agree to the above procedures, and I have fully read and understand all the information in this waiver and agree to abide by the procedures contained therein.

Signature of Vehicle Owner(s): _____ Date: _____

_____ Date: _____

Signature of Registering Officer/Employee: _____ Date: _____

Agency: _____ Agency Phone: _____

Please complete the above information and take this form, and your vehicle to your local Police Department, Sheriff's Department, or Maryland State Police Barrack.